Statement-I

Number of foreign and domestic tourists who arrived in Southern States during the last three years

Name of the State/UT	arrivals in 2003	Arrivals in 2003	Arrivals in 2004	Arrivals in 2004	Arrivals in 2005	Arrivals in 2005
	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
Andhra Pradesh	741,38,729	4,79,318	894,40,272	5,01,019	935,29,554	5,60,024
Karnataka	111,75,292	2,49,908	271,94,178	5,30,225	304,70,316	5,45,225
Kerala	58,71,228	2,94,621	59,72,182	3,45,546	59,46,423	3,46,499
Tamil Nadu	402,13,060	9,01,504	422,79,838	10,58,012	432,13,128	11,79,316
Pondicherry	5,00,111	25,559	5,58,445	32,053	5,74,011	31,009

Statement-II

List of projects sanctioned for the Southern States/UT Administrations during the 10th Five Year Plan (Till December, 2006)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Amount of Central Financial Assistance sanctioned
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7,938.27
2.	Karnataka	8,449.99
3.	Kerala	13,373.32
4.	Pondicherry	1,185.16
5.	Tamil Nadu	10,345.34

Conservation of water resources

247. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to pump an estimated Rs. 5,000 crore in 31 farmer suicide-prone districts for managing water security in

certain water-scarce belts and is exploring the possibility of introducing economically viable drip and sprinkle irrigation system that has already triggered fortunes in certain desert nations;

(b) whether the Prime Minister has identified 32 districts in three States and are getting special dispensation to manage irrigation; and

(c) whether his Ministry is observing 2007 as the Water Year and has already chalked out a detailed 20-point programme aimed at conservation of water resources and making clean water available to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Rehabilitation package for mitigating distress of farmers in 31 agrarian distress districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra has provision for support to State Governments for major and medium projects and minor irrigation schemes. In all 32 major & 33 medium irrigation projects and 2565 minor irrigation schemes have been included in the package. The major and medium irrigation projects are provided support under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). The estimated grant through AIBP as reflected in the Package is about of Rs. 4268 crores. The minor irrigation schemes are to be supported through NABARD. The package also has a component for micro irrigation to be supported through Ministry of Agriculture.

(c) The Government of India has declared the Year-2007 as the 'Water Year'. During the Water year-2007, will focus on: (a) awareness programmes for the masses; (b) specific activities for policy and opinion makers; and (c) organization of conferences, workshops on important development and management issues. Some of the major programme & activities are:

* National Congress on Ground Water during 2007.
* Celebration of World Water Day.
* Launching of year of more crop and income per drop of water in 5000 villages with farmers participatory action research programme through agricultural universities/ICAR Institutes/ICRISAT and WALMIS.
* Campaign on conservation of water through Radio and Television.

* Training of one woman and one man as Water Master in each Pani Panchayat.
* Institution of an annual award for outstanding village community working on Pani Panchayat.
* Campaign on conservation of water through Print media on specific occasions such as Independence Day-2007 etc.
* Participation in festivals, fairs etc.
* Printing and distribution of cartoon booklets with the theme of water conservation for children through schools.
* Mass Awareness programmes.
* Water Management training programmes.
* To carry out demonstrative artificial recharge and rain water harvesting studies to develop/update area specific methodologies.

Mass protest against Pagladia Dam project in BTAD area in Assam

248. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the mass protest against the proposed Pagladia Dam project in the BTAD area in Assam;

(b) whether it is a fact that more number of people are going to be displaced for the benefit of less number of people by constructing the proposed dam project;

(c) if so, Government's response to the mass protest and their demand for shifting the said project from present location to new one; and

(d) whether Government propose to adopt forcive measure to materialize the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A section of the Project Affected People (PAP) under the banner of a Committee called "Pagladiya Bandh Pralpar Khatigrasta Alekar Sangram Samity" has been protesting against the project through protest meetings in their areas.